

SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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12 Nov 52

Economic/PoliticalBauxite Production at HALIMBA.*Inf - August 1952*

1. The new HALIMBA-AJKA standard-gauge line was not finished in time for constitution day, but eight days later - viz on the 28th August. Its opening was not referred to in the press.
2. The 200 tons-per-day shipment quota is however not being adhered to. The largest consignment has been 120 tons and some days only 80 or 90 tons go down. The reason for this is a bottle neck on the narrow-gauge industrial line from HALIMBA mine to HALIMBA village.
3. This narrow-gauge line is a new one which has been constructed to connect HALIMBA village with the old narrow-gauge line from SZOC to the main DEVECSER-VESZPREM line. The old narrow-gauge line passed round the foot of a hill and it has been found necessary to utilise part of it because of the presence of this hill. The attached schematic sketch roughly illustrates this. This old line is in extremely bad condition and trucks and engines are always going off the rails. For a time an additional hitch was caused by lack of engines but now the old German steam engine has been supplemented by another and also two diesel engines.
4. The total number of workers in the HALIMBA mine is approximately 250. The norm for a miner is approximately 5 tons of bauxite per day. The miners, who work about 60 m underground, have been able to fulfil their norms but the entrance to the mine is now blocked with trucks full of bauxite which the haulage system cannot cope with.
5. The authorities are extremely dissatisfied with the position and during the first two weeks in September three separate communist party commissions visited the mine to enquire into the cause of the hold-up. The commissions were from the DISZ, the local party Council and the District Council. They

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have issued the verdict that the failure of the mine to increase its output is due entirely to sabotage by reactionaries. Consequently the party secretary, the mine manager and the personnel manager went to Budapest to report that the sabotage was inspired by five reactionaries whom they wished to have dismissed at once. The five reactionaries were an ex-general staff major now in charge of the surveying and an ex-Colonel in charge of the social insurance department; an ex-book-keeper in charge of wages; and two others.

6. The deputation had a meeting with the Russian in charge of the HALIMBA mine and the meeting was presided over by GERÖ. When the question had been thoroughly discussed the Russian got up and said that while he was willing to sanction the dismissal of anyone named by the Hungarian government he would not allow them to get rid of anyone who could not be replaced at once by someone of equal value. As they had no other candidates the dismissals have temporarily been shelved.

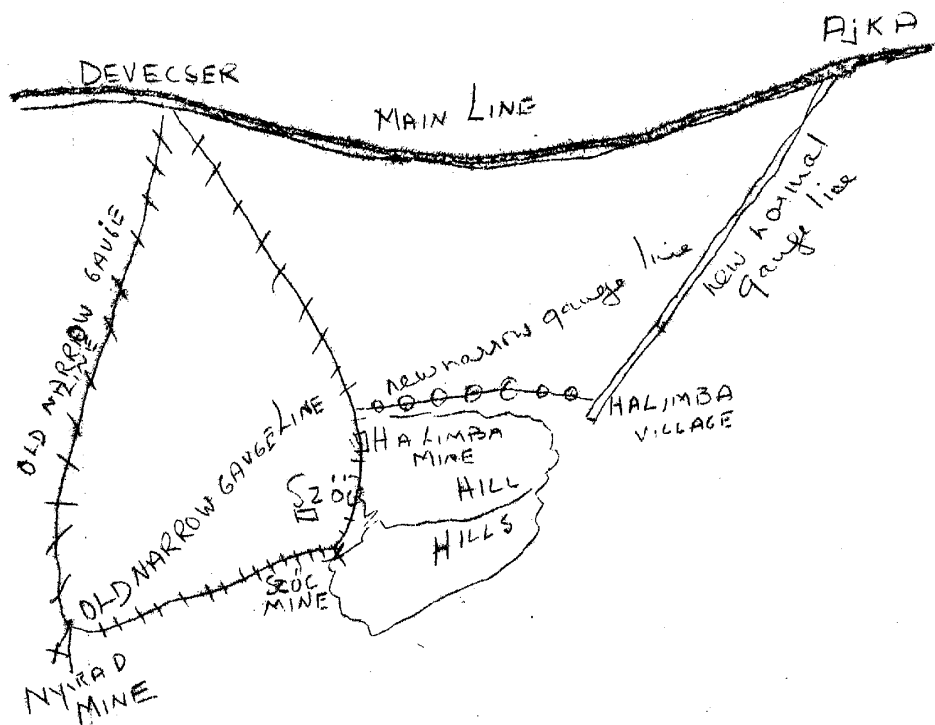
7. The old mine of SZÖC is Swiss property which has been nationalised and the proposed amalgamation with HALIMBA is at present held up on this account. The mine is however failing to produce its planned output and the manager, an ardent communist and a clever technician has recently had a "nervous breakdown." He was found one day sitting at his desk staring into space and has now been removed to an asylum. He has been replaced by another ardent communist who is of workers origin but quite inexperienced and stupid.

8. The personnel manager of HALIMBA had caused the names of the five reactionaries to be printed in the mine's newspaper but is nevertheless insuring against the future by keeping them posted "off the record" as to how their cases are proceeding. For this service he charges 50 forints.

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